Assessment of NH works by World Bank team

†1322. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank team has expressed great concern after undertaking estimation/assessment of construction works of National Highways/ Highways in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that World Bank team has stated that the planning, outlining and construction work of highways is sub-standard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that doubt has been raised from, technical point of view on projects regarding construction of an integrated National Highway in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is currently implementing four National Highways projects with loan assistance from World Bank. The planning and outlining of these projects, which includes preparation of detailed project report (from technical and environmental point of view), have been finalized with the concurrence of World Bank. For execution of the work, the agencies for supervision and construction are also finalized following guidelines of procurement of World Bank with their concurrence.

World Bank Mission have been undertaking regular visits to above projects to monitor progress and compliance of various loan covenants. The inputs provided by the World Bank mission through various *aide-memoires* are duly considered by NHAI for effective monitoring of project progress and appraised to World Bank from time to time.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Amount for repair of NHs

†1323. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the total amount provided/ earmarked for repair/maintenance and strengthening of National Highways in Bihar during the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and upto 31st July, 2007 and the total amount released against it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): Development and maintenance of National Highways in Bihar is entrusted to State Government and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The allocation of funds to the State Government and expenditure thereon are as follows:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Year	NH(O) including Permanent Bridge Fee Fund (PBFF)		Maintenance and Repair	
	Allocation	Release/ Expenditure	Allocation	Release/ Expenditure
2005-06	78.99	66.29	47.66	45.89
2006-07	119.07	106.17	34.58	32.59
2007-08 (upto 31st July, 2007)	103.82	32.584	29.21	10.45

No state-wise fund is allocated by NHAI. In the NHDP works, where contracts have been awarded for 4/6 laning and strengthening of existing NHs, maintenance is carried out by concessionaire/contractor. In other stretches, the expenditure incurred by NHAI, through State PWD, on maintenance of National Highways during last three years is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2005-06	7.55
2006-07	7.52
2007-08 (upto July, 2007)	5.19

Crisis of safe drinking water

1324. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing serious crisis of safe drinking water;

(b) whether Government have formulated any national policy to this effect;

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for tackling serious crisis of safe drinking water in the country, particularly in Maharashtra State;

(d) whether Government are considering to change water purification method through Chlorine as it sometimes causes serious health problems in the country; and

(e) the details of healthy and cost effective water purification being used by the developed nations and Government's response/reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Supply of drinking water is a State subject. The Ministry has not received any information from the State Governments about serious crisis in availability of safe drinking water in the urban areas of the country.